



# The E-Gobrecht

**Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club**

**2015 Volume 11, Issue 10  
October 2015 (Whole #129)**

## LSCC Website Completely Redesigned!

During early September, our club implemented a complete redesign of the [www.LSCCweb.org](http://www.LSCCweb.org) website. Education Director, John Frost, spent weeks researching options and formats that culminated in a substantial upgrade to the LSCC information portal. The redesign website features drop down menus and mouse hovering information access. These improvements simplify locating membership information, regional meeting news, multiple LSCC information links on recent meeting presentations and videos, contemporary counterfeit databases, and club awards.

Please take a look at it. Nice job, John!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the LSCC website. At the top, there's a banner with the club's name and a photo of two coins. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links like 'LSCC Home', 'About us', 'Membership', etc. The main content area has sections for 'Welcome', 'Upcoming Events', and 'LSCC News'. It also features several images of people at coin shows and a small sidebar with copyright information.

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The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included on the last page.



## Auction News by Jim Gray, LSCC #664

The **Goldberg** Pre-Long Beach Sale sold an F12 1846 Half Dime for \$1,150. An MS62 1871-CC dime did not sell and a VG8 1873-CC was worth \$2,500. An 1860-S quarter graded G4 hit \$700. Three Carson City half dollars G6 1870-CC, G6 1874-CC, and VG10 1878-CC realized \$1,350, \$925, and \$1,200. An 1872-CC dollar graded AU55 did not sell.

The **Heritage** Long Beach Sale sold an 1838-O half dime graded AU53 for \$2,938 and an 1849-O MS61 specimen hit \$1,528. An MS65 1838-O dime soared to \$25,850. A VF25 1846 hit \$1,293 and an F15 1871-CC sold for \$1,760.

Quarter Dollars were a VG10 1849-O that sold for \$1,880, an XF45 1860-S went for \$8,225, and a 1871-S F12 at \$2,527.

An MS64 1852 half dollar sold for \$5,710 and an F15 1870-CC hit \$3,995. 1872-CC VF30 and 1873-CC No Arrows XF40 coins were worth \$1,028 and \$3,770.

An AU58 1851 dollar soared to \$28,200 and a 1859-S graded MS63 cost \$17,625. Two 1872-CC dollars graded F12 and VF25 went for \$2,233 and \$3,995.

## LSCC Calendar

October 1, 2015. Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the Fall *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #124.

October 22, 2015. LSCC Regional club meeting, **Denver, CO**, Denver Coin Expo, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver Co. Thursday, 1 PM.

October 31-November 1, 2015. LSCC Display, **Rochester, NY**, Rochester Numismatic Association Coin Show, Rochester, NY. Gerry Fortin hosts and will be displaying his PCGS award winning Liberty Seated Dime collection which includes twenty gold CAC pieces.

November 2015. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #124 published and mailed to all current members.

November 6, 2015. LSCC Regional club meeting, **Baltimore, MD**, Whitman Winter Coin Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Friday, 9 AM, Room 305. Len Augsburger hosts.

November 13-14, 2015. LSCC Event, **Manchester, NH**, NH Coin and Currency Expo, Radisson Hotel/Center of New Hampshire, 700 Elm St., Manchester, NH 03101. More information next month.



## Regional News by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

In the coin hobby as we grow our collections, we also grow in knowledge and achievement. The LSCC is very invested in sharing knowledge and assisting in personal growth.

Personal growth and achieve-

ment take various paths to success and the growth we experience is not limited to the coin hobby. It can however be a springboard to success in other aspects of our lives.

Taking the challenge the LSCC offers in being part of our regional team can reward you in ways you may not envision today. I have been working on a personal goal for five years and can now say mission accomplished. The growth I've experienced in the work offered here within the LSCC has helped to make this accomplishment a reality.

The LSCC has much to offer. Opportunities to collaborate with highly respected numismatists and learning to speak in public. Growing as a recognized leader in one of the most vibrant clubs in the hobby can be challenging, but also very rewarding.

Bob Clark took the challenge and is helping to keep the LSCC relevant at the Long Beach Expo.

With Bob at the club table and Brian Cushing hosting the club dinner, the LSCC is well represented at Long Beach. Our members in Southern California have plenty to look forward to. Thanks Bob for joining the team and thank you Brian for your continued support of the club.

Steve Petty is a dedicated member of the regional team in the Central Region. Steve hosted the regional LSCC meeting at the Ohio State Coin Show Labor Day weekend. Steve gave an informative talk titled "The Twenty-Cent Piece: Historical legislative attempts and rarity ratings." The central region is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable historian as Steve who is willing to take the time to share his expertise.

October sees the club at the Rochester Numismatic Associations annual coin show October 31 and November 1. Gerry Fortin will be displaying his PCGS award winning Liberty Seated Dime collection. Gerry's collection includes twenty gold CAC pieces. There will be an exciting educational program as well. Members in the New York area will not want to miss this.

November starts quickly with the Baltimore Expo November 5-8 and then Manchester, NH November 13-14. More on these next month.

### Handy club related links....

New redesigned LSCC website: <http://www.lsccweb.org/>

*Gobrecht Journal* Issues #1-120 on Newman Numismatic Portal at  
[https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?and\[\]=%gobrecht](https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?and[]=%gobrecht)



## LSCC New Member Dues Policy

At the club's 2015 annual meeting, the membership voted to increase yearly dues from \$20 to \$25. The purpose of membership dues is to provide value to the members and support the needs of the club. While those needs are several, the principal cost driver of membership dues is the printing and distribution of the club's printed publication, *The Gobrecht Journal*.

Ideally, new members joining throughout the year would receive all issues of the *Gobrecht Journal* for that current year. However, that is not practical as we cannot accurately predict increases in membership for the entire year and print sufficient copies of the *Gobrecht Journal* in advance to meet an unknown demand. After much discussion at the ANA, the club's officers adopted this new member dues payment policy, which is fair, meets the needs of the organization,

and is easy to administer. *The Gobrecht Journal* is published three times per year (March, July, and November) and based on the new member's join date, he/she will receive the *Gobrecht Journal(s)* on a pro-rated basis according to the table below. Past issues will be available until supplies are exhausted. Dues renewal notifications for the coming year will be included with the Fall issue of the *Gobrecht Journal*. Dues are expected by January 1. If dues are not received by February 28 of the new year, the member will be removed from the *Gobrecht Journal* mailing list for the March issue.

Late joining members are encouraged to join for the next year (e.g., join in November for \$15 plus another \$25 for the next year).

New member join date	Amount Due	<i>Gobrecht Journals</i> received by the new member
January thru March	\$25	3 (March, July, and November)
April thru July	\$20	2 (July and November)
August thru December	\$15	1 (November)

Paid advertisement

**TO SEATED HALF AND DOLLAR COLLECTORS:** I'm selling much of the remainder of my seated half collection, over 400 coins. There are rare dates (including a mini-hoard of 1851's), a lot of rare die marriages, late die states (cuds, heavy die cracks, and other interesting stuff), die rotations, mint errors, and even a few counterfeits and altered dates. Several coins were plate coins for Bill Bugert's reference books. There are also a few seated dollars at the end of the list that represent coins from the Osburn/ Cushing reference set that became duplicates after we bought an upgrade.

Write, call, or email and I'll forward the spreadsheet listing. If you see coins that are of interest let me know via email and I'll reserve them for you. Call me if you want additional information on any coin. Also feel free to call if you have specific wants that might be in the list.

DICK OSBURN

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Paid advertisement

## GerryFortinRareCoins.com

Original Seated and Bust Coins

Consignments Well Supported

Check out my Daily Blog!

The Collector's  
"Online Destination"



## Subscriber Correspondence

From **Scott Grieb**: I wanted to write about how much I enjoy Jim Laughlin's articles about the doings at the San Francisco and Carson City mints; including a careful separation of their activities from the activities of local merchants, mine owners, etc. The style of writing of the day does not always make it easy to determine which is which.

Another point is that he adds pertinent historical background that supports the activity he is reporting. A good example is at the end of his latest article in the September E-Gobrecht Journal in which he mentions how the different rail lines, being completed at different times, could have supported what the merchants/mine owners apparently were doing to help ensure adequate coinage for commerce and coin payment to workers.

Anyway, thank you, Jim!

From **Paul Kluth**: The new LSCC website raises the bar again! The layout and flow is first rate and it is really easy to find everything. Really nice!

*[Editor's Note. It is with deep regret that I inform readers of the passing of club member #2076, Phil De Rosa of Deer Park WA. With the last issue of the E-Gobrecht, I received this reply. RIP, Phil.]*

From **Kathy De Rosa**: Phil De Rosa passed away unexpectedly on July 17th, 2015. One of his many enjoyments receiving this publication monthly. Thanks, Kathy De Rosa



# The Curious Collector

## by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### News and Notes

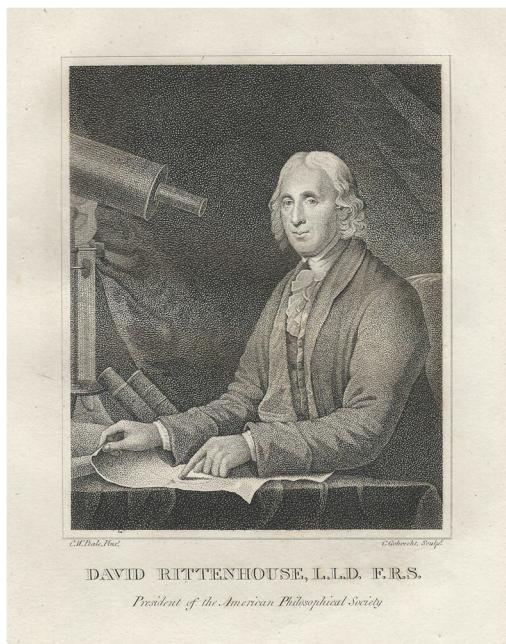
The LSCC club archives were front row center during a recent trip to Gettysburg, PA. Bill Bugert retrieved a number of boxes from past president John McCloskey, and along with Gerry Fortin, the current club officers took a first pass through the material before handing it off to club archivist Steve Crain. If Steve hasn't realized it yet, he has a lot of work ahead of him! John kept records from the very beginning, and there is even some material from Kam Ahwash, the first club president. The early club history is all there and I expect Steve will publish a number of interesting items in due course. We timed this visit to coincide with the National Battlefield Coin Show, and, while not up to the highest expectations, is there really anything such as a bad coin show? While choice material may have been thin, I had nice discussions with several LSCC members including David Kahn, Rich Hundertmark, and Scott Lingo. There were no Liberty Seated coins for me, but I did purchase a 1909 \$10 Indian in PCGS AU58. I also looked at a Gallery Mint Museum reproduction of the 1796 quarter eagle, struck in gold, but at twice melt the price was a bit steep.

The same afternoon I toured the Gettysburg National Military Park with Dan Rathert, a LSCC member and Licensed Battlefield Guide. Dan's knowledge of the grounds is encyclopedic and truly brings the conflict to life. Walking around the site was especially moving as the tour was on September 11. War is a terrible, awful thing and one could easily imagine the ground covered in bodies and blood. Even today the remains of many

(especially from the Confederate side) rest in unmarked graves. The Civil War claimed over a million casualties, a staggering number in today's terms. One can only come away with a profound appreciation for President Lincoln, who so hated slavery that he was willing to pay any price to overcome it, and even more so his capability to pull along the sometimes reluctant North in a brutal struggle. I highly recommend a tour with Dan for anyone interested in this part of our nation's history.

I had hoped to also visit the Hanover Historical Society on this trip (a short drive away from Gettysburg) to look over the Christian Gobrecht material

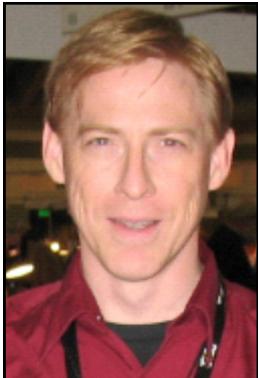
recently donated by the Hanover Numismatic Society. Unfortunately, everything was in storage, but it will be a good excuse for another visit when construction of their new facility is complete. Along the same lines, Bill Bugert recently brought to my attention a group of copperplate engravings by Christian Gobrecht on eBay. All three were acquired immediately, most notably an engraving of David Rittenhouse (image at right), the first Director of the United States Mint. Gobrecht executed this engraving in Philadelphia, circa 1815 for Abraham Rees's *Cyclopedia, First American Edition*.



DAVID RITTENHOUSE, L.L.D. F.R.S.  
President of the American Philosophical Society

As many of you are aware, I am now a fulltime employee at Washington University in St. Louis in the role of project coordinator for the Newman Numismatic Portal. The Portal recently digitized *Gobrecht Journal* Issues #1 thru #120 which may be found online at [https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?and\[\]=%20gobrecht](https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?and[]=%20gobrecht). Not sur-

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## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

### 1854 With a Reverse Cuds

Last month's column featured a newly acquired 1853 Arrows and Rays quarter with a reverse cud.

It was noted in that column that there are at least eight reverse cuds known for the 1853 A&R quarter, a fact that isn't terribly surprising given the huge and rapid increase in mintage that occurred that year. This month the new coin is an 1854 quarter with, yep you guessed it, a reverse cud. There is some concern (on my part) about turning this into a "cud of the month" column. In order to prevent readers from simply saying, "Oh look, another cud," this time around I attempted to do some additional research and catalog the known 1854 cuds, rather than simply showing the new cud. This proved rather more challenging than was first anticipated. By the time the task was completed seven distinct cuds, all on the reverse, had been identified and 279 Heritage images of 1854 reverses had been viewed. The relatively large number of cuds identified is not too surprising in retrospect because the 1854 is not too far behind the 1853 A&R in mintage, or for that matter in popularity as a type coin.

The table below summarizes the cuds that have been identified. It is worth noting that only four of the 279 Heritage images of 1854 reverses that were studied showed reverse cuds. It is also important to keep in mind that many of the images were duplicates because the same coin was sometimes sold more than once at Heritage over the time period examined (approximately 2005 – 2015 because earlier images do not have high enough resolution). Given the overall number of images, no attempt was made to identify and remove duplicate images from the list.

The cuds reported here are all very scarce to very rare. Readers should keep in mind that part of this scarcity is a result of each being very late die states. The die marriages may be quite common and the very late die state of that common die marriage could still be very rare.

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Reference	Cud Location	Image
Briggs Rev C	"TE" of STATES	Only known image in Briggs' book (4, page 91)
Briggs Rev D	"ED" of UNITED	Figure 1 (5)
Briggs Rev E, September 2014 Quarter of the Month	"UN" of UNITED (1)	Figure 2
March 2014 Quarter of the Month	"ITED" of UNITED (2)	Figure 3 (6)
October 2015 Quarter of the Month	Including "QUA" of QUARTER	Figure 4 (6)
March 2013 Quarter of the Month	Including "RICA" of AMERICA	Figure 5
Heritage Archive 5/31/09	"TE" of UNITED (3)	Figure 6 (5)



# The Strike Zone

## by Rich Hundertmark, LSCC #2347

### Late Die State 1838 Half Dime with Large Stars

Modified fly fishing proverb of the month:

Bragging may not bring happiness,  
but no man having purchased a great coin goes home through an alley.  
- Author unknown

With a large mintage of 2,225,000, the 1838 Half Dime is quite frequently the choice of collectors seeking a Variety 2 type coin with Stars and No Drapery obverse.

Short lived, the Type 2 was issued from 1838-1840 at the Philadelphia mint, and from 1839-1840 at the New Orleans branch mint, with the 1838 representing 37% of the type's total minted population.

The 1838 issue can also be readily collected for both the "Large Stars" and the rarer "Small Stars" varieties. There are at least 15 varieties for listed by Valentine for the "Large Star" type, the varieties having various star placements, re-punches, die marriages, and die state progressions.

One of the listed large star varieties recently was found, a late state V10 which is initially attributed based on the obverse tripling seen in star #1, that star being located closest to Miss Liberty's right hand and holding her shield. The star's tripling is an easy variety identifier but what was of great interest to me is the advanced die state corrosion that the reverse exhibits.

A full description of four identified V10 die state stages can be found in Kevin Flynn's *Authoritative Refer-*

*ence on Half Dimes*. The example pictured easily qualifies as in Stage 4 which is described as follows:



"Die clashing seen under TES of STATES, on right inside of wreath. Greatly increased corrosion, now heavily between ERI and the field."

The found example shows heavy corrosion now extending from MERICA and the field. Additional die clashing is also noted above the bow and extending to the F in HALF.

It would certainly be of interest to see an example of all four reverse die states side by side to fully appreciate and understand the die's erosion.

Happy hunting and thanks for reading.  
Rich

Photo courtesy of Gerry Fortin.  
Blythe, Alfred. [The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dimes](#). Virginia Beach, VA: DLRC Press, 1992.

*Quarter of the Month (Continued from page 7)*

(1) Due to an unfortunate oversight this coin was not identified as Briggs' reverse E in the September 2014 column.

(2) This coin is not a later die state of Briggs' reverse D. The reverse D cud extends notably further to the right of the "D" in UNITED.

(3) This coin is possibly an earlier die state of the coin shown in March 2014 column, but that seems unlikely based on the position of other die cracks.

(4) The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters. Larry Briggs. Lima, OH 1991.

(5) Photo courtesy of Heritage.

(6) Photo courtesy of Gerry Fortin



Figure 1. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.

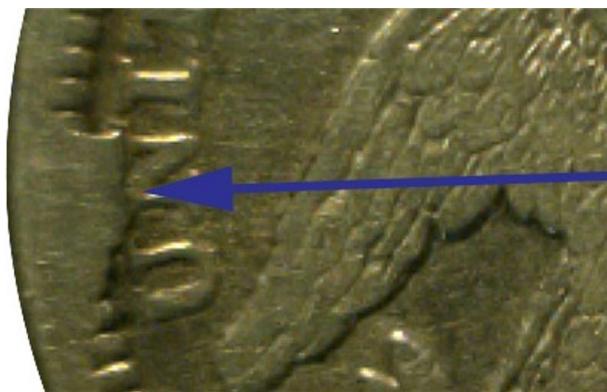


Figure 2. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.



Figure 3. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.



Figure 4. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.

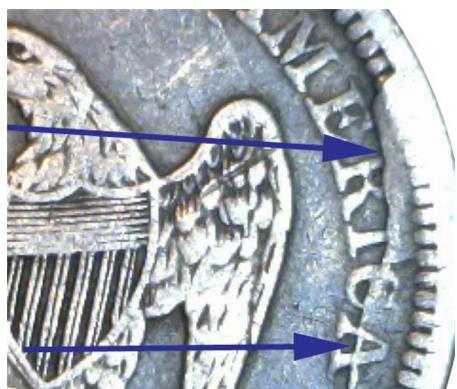


Figure 5. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.



Figure 6. 1854 Quarter reverse cud.



# LSCC Member in the Spotlight:

## Ken Rubin, LSCC #2066

### by Tony Barreca, LSCC #2151

**Tony.** When did you first become interested in coin collecting and numismatics? Was there a specific experience or set of experiences that triggered it? What series did you start collecting when you did?

**Ken.** In 1966, I became interested in coin collecting at 7 years of age. My father, Bernie, showed me a small cardboard box (it used to hold fuses) filled with old coins. His family owned a candy store in Flatbush Brooklyn, NY in the 1930s and 1940s where he did some collecting. The coins that stood out were an 1858 Flying Eagle cent, 1890 Seated dime, 1914-D Barber dime, and an 1871 3-cent piece! The 3-cent piece was the strangest thing I had ever seen but I fell in love with the 1890 Liberty Seated Dime. It turned out to be an original F12.

**Tony.** How did you initially become interested in Liberty Seated (LS) coins? Which LS denominations do you focus on currently? Previously?

**Ken.** OK, so that dime had a permanent effect on me. What additionally overwhelmed and intrigued me was my 29 cent Whitman Folder for Liberty Seated Dimes 1863-1891. I was about 11 years old at the time. I wondered how I could ever fill the book? The gauntlet of challenge was thrown before me, but it was too difficult a task, so I didn't pick it up until about 1986.

Up to my preteen years, I collected Lincoln Cents and Jefferson Nickels, with some type coins mixed in, including Half Cents, Large Cents, and one of each Liberty Seated Denomination other than the dollar. Nothing, generally, that cost more than \$10-15.

I delivered newspapers that advertised local businesses and earned some spending money. At this time I was able to complete my Jefferson nickels. I found nearly all of the Jefferson Nickels I was missing, on one special day in 1969, looking through 4 rolls. Everything but the 1950-D and 1939-D!

I had a break with coin collecting from about 1972-1978. When I was 19 and attending college, there was a Five and Dime Store that sold inexpensive collector coins. I worked during the summer and had enough money to complete my low grade Lincoln Cent Set (except for the 1909-S VDB) by the time I was 21. I had another non-collecting gap until 1986, but I never did buy a 1909-S VDB cent because I feel that it is too expensive for a relatively common coin.

In 1986 after graduating from college, I worked for several years at a full time job at an aerospace company as an Electrical Engineer. I had some money at that point and there was a coin show nearby every two weeks. The huge itch came back to buy up what was cool in the *Red Book*! I had met the love of my life (no, not a coin) but the relationship was not at the point yet where my lovely held sway over how I fed my coin addiction. Yes, this was party time for Ken's collection! I was buying different denominations of Liberty Seated coins, plus some early type coins like a 1795 Half Dollar, but all without a particular focus.

One of my first specialty books was the Weimar White book on Liberty Seated Dollars. It was exciting that these dollars were so much rarer than nearly all Morgans. I bought about 10 of the more common dates, generally in F-EF grade. These were nice specimens but something was missing for me personally and I couldn't put my finger on it.

In 1986, I bought Kam Ahwash's book and became obsessed with the rarity of some of the dimes. As my girlfriend became my fiancé in 1987, I promised to better manage my coin spending. However, my knowledge and hunger for scarce coins was only increasing. How would I cope with this?

Between having a reasonable budget and selling certain coins that I bought on impulse, I was mak-

(Continued on page 11)



**LSCC Member in the Spotlight** *(Continued from page 10)*

ing some good progress on my collection. Between 1987 and 1990 a lot of conversion happened. For example, the ten more common Liberty Seated Dollars were sold and I purchased an ANACS G4 1871-CC Liberty Seated Dollar. That was what I was missing! I wanted the hard to find issues, not just dates that one could find at nearly any coin show. Most type coins, bought on impulse, were traded for better date Liberty Seated dimes. The 1871-CC and the 1870-S were a few of the first dates that I purchased. By purchasing the Ahwash book, it created a drive in me to acquire the toughest dates, which helped my collection enormously, because many of these coins would have been unaffordable for me later.

**Tony.** *Within the series of LS coins you focus on, do you consider yourself a variety collector? If so, what is your approach to variety collecting?*

**Ken.** My primary collection of LS coins is the dimes. However, I try to buy some better dates from other series too, with more funds having gone into the quarters and the dollars.

My dimes are complete as a date and mintmark set missing only the 1879 and 1880. I have owned these before. I just feel that they are overpriced for the scarcity. I will have to buy these again in the future to complete the set. Currently, I am upgrading my dime set and trying to pass them into PCGS slabs for the registry set. The link to my registry set is: <http://www.pcgs.com/setregistry/publishedset.aspx?s=125182>. The set is named after my parents Doris and Bernie.

I generally know if my coins are of a scarce variety. If not, I may not know the exact variety.

**Tony.** *How long have you been an LSCC member? In your opinion, what are the main advantages of belonging to the club?*

**Ken.** I've been a member of the LSCC on and off since 1988 with some lapses earlier on. The culture of this club draws in the LS series experts who share their knowledge openly. The transference of knowledge is truly awesome.

As an example, I've been getting more involved in die varieties just by osmosis from blogs, meetings, web books etc. A PCGS-AU50 1851-O dime with a missing star 7 just found its way into my collection and is a new variety in Gerry Fortin's web book! This coin was found on eBay and I was able to negotiate the price down about 20% by giving a best offer. My first two offers were too low and were automatically rejected. I am going to sell my EF 1851-O dime to cover some of the cost.

**Tony.** *Do you ever participate in Club activities? If so, which ones? Have you ever visited the Clubs message boards? Attended a meeting in person? Which activities could you see yourself participating in at a future time? Have you ever actively recommended that a collector friend join the LSCC? If not, why not?*

**Ken.** I attend club meetings in Baltimore and often post on the message board. I have to provide full disclosure and admit that I did not notice the missing star originally on the 1851-O dime mentioned above. It was on the message board that someone spotted the missing star! Thank you to Gerry Fortin, our president and dealer who is also on the blog. He was able to verify that this coin is an error. [See related article on page 13 - Editor.] Gerry had also shared knowledge of the scarcity of this coin in higher grades. This is an example of makes the LSCC and Message Board so valuable, the shared collective knowledge and experience of the members!

Also I have noticed that the quality of the coins which I purchase for the grade has improved, by seeing what others have bought. By viewing coins on the message board and from sending in my own coins, I have also gained knowledge to predict, with some accuracy, which coins will slab. I am also very thankful for the friends that I have made on the blog!

I would also like to give thanks to Rich Uhrich, a member and dealer, who has taught me so much about the coin market and countless valuable facts about coins of all series.

In the future I would like to attend more shows, help with the tables, and try to bring in more

*(Continued on page 12)*



(Continued from page 11)

members. This will be much easier to do in retirement, several years in the future. I have recommended to collectors to join the LSCC.

**Tony.** *In your collecting career, what was the greatest coup you ever pulled off when purchasing a coin? Your biggest mistake?*

**Ken.** Greatest coup: I went to NYC Macy's in 1989 and they showed me their last Liberty Seated Dime in stock. It was an 1872-CC VG (lightly cleaned) for \$110! I have also cherry picked two 1846-O tall date half dollars which I bought as generic coins.

Biggest mistake: I once bought an 1872-CC Liberty Seated Dollar in an NGC VG8 holder. It had an added 'CC'. Another member on the blog spotted it right away and saved me a lot of trouble! Please check coins carefully in your slabs!

**Tony.** *Do you think of the hobby as being a form of investment as well? If so, how do you approach your use of coins as an investment vehicle?*

**Ken.** When I was 12, I made a list of coins with very low mintages which seemed to be inexpensive. The coin at the top of the list was an 1867 dime in good condition for \$35. I could not find one until 2012! I have to admit that my search was not exhaustive and did not include the help of a specialty dealer.

Getting back on the topic, I put more funds into the scarcer date Liberty Seated dimes because I believed that they would go up in price. I was fortunate to buy most of them early in my dime collecting days between 1986-1990. As such my dime collection is not condition balanced. I have an AU55 1867-S but a G4 1849! The 1849 is quite a candidate for an upgrade!

**Tony.** *While we don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by getting too personal, it would be a real opportunity for your fellow club members to get to know you a bit if you'd also answer one or more of these optional questions.*

**Tony.** *What is/was your work/career?*

**Ken.** I am still working as a Software Developer in a financial company.

**Tony.** *What other hobbies/interests do you have besides numismatics?*

**Ken.** I have a fascination with Geography and Climate. We recently took a trip to Alaska, which included Barrow which is the furthest north location in the US, met the Inupiaqs (inuits- they don't like to be called eskimos) and spent some time touring the shore of the Arctic Ocean. At 12:30 AM, the sun was high in the sky on July 4th!

**Tony.** *What is your greatest or most memorable personal achievement?*

**Ken.** As a collector, my greatest achievements were finding three coins: 1874-CC dime, 1871-CC quarter, and 1867 dime. For the 1874-CC, I hunted for 3 years starting in 1986. I found one specimen in a coin ad, but it was sold by the time I called. Another dealer sent me one, but that 1874-CC had 5 scratches on the obverse for full price at the time of \$1,050 in good condition. Finally, I called Larry Briggs and he found an 1874-CC for me in just one month! Just using my own searching resources an affordable 1871-CC quarter eluded me until 2013!





## Discovery of 1851 New Orleans Dime with Missing Star 7

by Gerry Fortin, LSCC #1054

After studying Liberty Seated dimes for years and probably looking at 1,000s of pieces, I am still surprise at the new varieties, die states, and minting errors that are discovered by LSCC members. Case in point is the scarce 1851 New Orleans date which seems to have escaped the researchers and variety nuts as the coinage was struck from a single die pair. These dies are polished over their life time but are devoid of die cracks during the striking of 400,000 pieces; a number that seems high for a single die pair of that time period.

During late July 2015, Ken Rubin send along an email concerning an 1851 New Orleans dime purchased in PCGS AU50 graded holder with a missing Star 7. Ken's concern was that a Chinese counterfeit might be at hand as no 1851-O dimes were known with a missing

Star 7. Ken shipped his dime study and the inspection clearly indicated the dime in question was genuine. The missing Star 7 was the result of a minting error; most likely a greased filled die for a short period of time. The fact that Star 6 and Liberty's facial details are not disturbed is amazing. The foreign material that filled the Star 7 crevice on the die was localized leaving only a faint impression of the star at top most point.

A second example has surfaced after Ken Rubin posted his discovery on the LSCC message board. The Rubin coin is strictly original and accurately graded as an AU50. Problem free 1851-O dimes grading better than VF30 are scarce and become very scare in AU or better.



Normal Strike - PCGS MS65



Missing Star 7 close up



Missing Star 7 - PCGS AU50



# 1861 News concerning the New Orleans Mint

## by Jim Laughlin, LSCC #876

The following articles may be of interest to collectors of the 1861-O Half Dollars and to those interested in the history of the New Orleans Mint. We, of course, know today that the Mint was taken over by the State of Louisiana and later by the Confederate States of America; both striking additional 1861-O Half Dollars and Twenty Dollar gold pieces using United States dies. The following articles however were written during the immediacy of the crisis.

February 9, 1861, Sunbury American (Sunbury, Pennsylvania)

### Seizure of the Mint and Custom House at New Orleans (2 articles)

New Orleans-Feb. 1, 1861—The United States Mint and Custom House were quietly taken possession of yesterday by the State authorities. The officers continued in their positions having taken the oath prescribed by the Ordinance of Secession today. The Convention has under consideration the report of the Committee on Citizenship.

Washington, Feb 2, 1861—Some ten days ago Secretary Dix gave Adam's Express Company a draft on the Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans, for the purpose of transferring coin and bullion in the Branch Mint in that city to the Mint in Philadelphia. The amount of the draft was three hundred and fifty dollars. Three days ago he received a dispatch from Adam's agent in New Orleans, stating that the amount would be delivered in two or three days, but that the Assistant Treasurer declined to deliver a part, assigning as a reason that he wished to pay the entire draft at once.

The Secretary immediately telegraphed to the Treasurer to pay the Express agent on that day as large an amount as the agent could transport. The coin and bullion are chiefly silver, weighing several tons. Today the Secretary has received a dispatch from the Express Company, informing him that the Assistant Treasurer refused to pay any portion of the draft, and that the Branch Mint had been taken possession of by the authorities of the State of Louisiana.

The circumstances clearly indicate deliberate contrivance on the part of the State authorities to get

possession of the money in the Mint. This action on their part is universally condemned, and is regarded by the Government as one of the most high-handed and outrageous transactions that has yet been perpetrated. Even South Carolina refused to take money belonging to the Government, having accounted for and paid over every dollar to the United States.

On receipt of the news this morning, the President called an extraordinary session of the Cabinet, and the whole subject was considered. It is understood that Senators Benjamin and Slidell were sent for to know if they were aware of this transaction. The Government being without any official knowledge respecting this matter, immediately telegraphed the Collector and Treasurer to know the facts connected with the seizure. Nothing was heard from either at our last advices.

Unfortunately the second article is a bit confusing as written. I believe what is meant is that the Assistant Treasurer had a directive from Washington to deliver probably all the coin and bullion assets then present at the Mint to Adam's Express Company for transportation immediately to the Philadelphia Mint; at the same time there was a small \$350 dollar draft to be paid to Adam's for the work they were contracted to perform. The way the article is written it seems the \$350 dollar draft may have been what the Assistant Treasurer was not going to pay in part, but I believe it was the huge transfer of coin and bullion that the Assistant Treasurer was indicating he would only pay out in one delivery.

The Adam's Agent had advised Washington that the Mint said it would take two or three days to comply with the coin and bullion transfer and this would seem to make sense if they had to box, count, and ensure the Mint books balanced; the Assistant Treasurer may have wanted everything to remain in place until the count and books balanced, refusing to deliver the order in parts. Of course, this also could have been a good excuse to delay the transfer. Apparently upon receipt of the message from the Adam's Agent, Secretary Dix immediately telegraphed the As-

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sistant Treasurer at the New Orleans Mint and directed him to immediately transfer all the coin and bullion that Adam's had facility to carry. Only then, did the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington receive word from the Adam's Agent that the Assistant Treasurer at the New Orleans Mint had refused to transfer any of the coin and bullion and that the facility had been taken over by the State of Louisiana.

I have seen other newspaper articles discussing Mint transfers of coin, where the actual dollar amounts were not revealed due to security reasons. The removal of un-coined bullion in addition to the minted coins on hand, seems to indicate this was a wholesale removal of all Government assets from the Mint facility. No doubt research in the National Archives, should come up with the actual instructions sent to the New Orleans Mint.

Knowing that the crisis eventually turned to all-out war, it is interesting to read of the State of South Carolina returning Federal monies found in Federal facilities that had been taken over by the State.

Louisiana Senators Benjamin and Slidell both resign from the US Senate on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

March 15, 1861, The Hancock Jeffersonian (Findlay, Ohio)

**Gold from the New Orleans Mint--A Communication** from J. Ross Snowden, Director of the Philadelphia Mint, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, under the date of February 18<sup>th</sup>, appears in the Philadelphia *Press*. Mr. Snowden recommends that the coinage of the New Orleans Mint be declared no longer a legal tender, inasmuch as the Mint has been seized by the state authorities and is no longer a federal institution. This important proposition is set forth as follows:

"It appears that the institution in question is not conducting its operation in a lawful manner, and although it is still a branch of the Mint of the United States, (for no action of the Louisiana can legally alter its relation to the general government) yet, as its coinage from the close of the month of January will not be subject to the tests required by law, it has practically ceased to be a branch of this Mint—The coinage of

that branch is designated by the letter "O" on the reverse side of each piece. The coins struck in January are legal coins of the United States; but as these pieces cannot be distinguished from others coined since that time, having the date of 1861, the whole coinage of the year ought to be discredited by the government. The announcement should be made, either by the President, or by act of Congress, if the former should not be deemed proper, that the coins of the branch mint at New Orleans of the year 1861 are not of the coinage of the United States, and are therefore not a legal tender in the payment of debts; said coins are designated by the letter "O" on the reverse of each piece.

"I may here state that the coins stamped at San Francisco are designated by the letter "S"; those of Dahlonega (Georgia) by the letter "D" and of Charlotte (North Carolina) by the letter "C". The coinage of the mint at Philadelphia may be known by the absence of any letter or mint mark."

If Director Snowden's proposal had taken traction, all the 1861-O half dollars and Twenty Dollar pieces, regardless of which Government or State had issued them, would have been declared no longer a legal tender, and refused to be accepted by the United States for any dues or customs. Apparently Dahlonega and Charlotte were still considered loyal, or possibly thought not to have struck coins and therefore are not addressed in the Director's appeal.

While this proposal appears to have gone nowhere, the Post Office in August 1861 came out with re-designed U.S. postage stamps and instituted a short period for exchanging old stamps for new, and then demonetized all previous U.S. postage stamps. To this day, the postage stamps issued by the U.S. Government previous to 1861 cannot be used as valid postage. The reasoning was the CSA could raise considerable sums of money by selling U.S. postage stamps that were recovered from taken over Post Offices located in the South. The new Confederate States of America Post Master General in April 1861, ordered all Post Offices in his charge to return all U.S. postage on hand back to Washington, D.C. Few apparently complied with his directive.

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April 5, 1861, Delaware Gazette (Delaware, Ohio).

Distrust--We understand that a considerable amount of gold, of foreign coinage has recently been forwarded by a bank of New Orleans to a Philadelphia bank for the purpose of having it converted into American coin at the United States Mint in this city—the reason assigned for transmitting it here, instead of having it coined at the New Orleans Mint, being a want of confidence in the latter institution since it has fallen into the hands of the Secessionists. This incident is quite suggestive one, and shows how much distrust of the Dis-unionists is felt in the financial circles of the South (Philadelphia Press).

Fort Sumter wasn't bombarded until April 12, 1861, so this article pre-dates the start of hostilities. As the crisis developed, clearly no one knew at the time where events were headed.

#### Postscript:

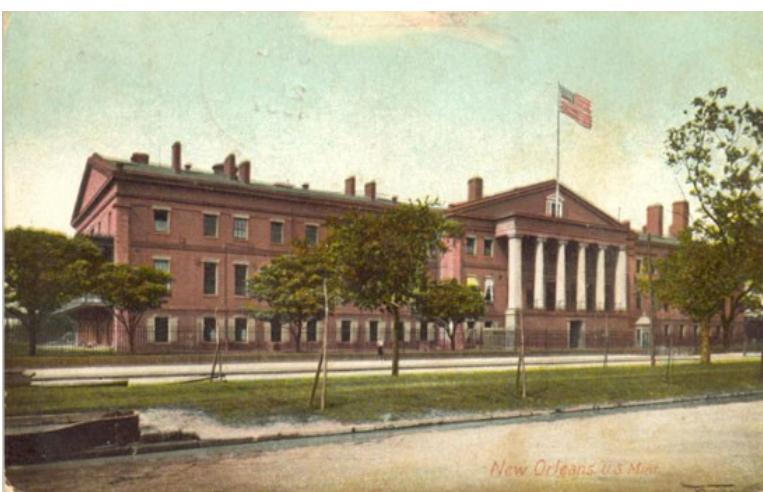
One of the more interesting stories of the New Orleans Mint occurs on April 26, 1862 when U.S. Marines from the USS Pocahontas landed in the City of New Orleans and briefly took possession of the old New Orleans Mint building, removing the CSA flag, and replace it with the US Flag.

A group of civilians had gathered in anger, and the U.S. Marines before leaving told the population that the USS Pocahontas would fire on anyone attempting to remove the U.S. flag from atop the Mint building. Seven individuals, including William Bruce Mumford, successfully removed the U.S. flag amidst being fired on by the USS Pocahontas. Mumford was slightly injured and later led a possession with the captured flag through the streets of New Orleans, being cheered by New Orleans residents.

U.S. General Benjamin Butler having secured

the City for the U.S. Army days later, heard the story of Mumford and had him arrested and charged. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, a military tribunal tried and convicted Mumford. Butler issuing a Special Order on June 5 indicating that Mumford had been convicted before a military commission of treason and an overt act thereof and would be executed on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Butler decided the execution should take place at the location of the crime per Spanish custom and so Mumford was hung in the courtyard of the New Orleans Mint, reportedly from the horizontal flagstaff that projected from the Mint building out over the inner courtyard.

The Mumford's story still rages today regarding the legality of the charge, and the severity of the punishment. There was the tearful last meeting of Mumford and his wife; the last words to a young son; the gallows speech to the gathered spectators; CSA President Jefferson Davis proclaiming Gen. Butler should be hung if ever captured; Butler ensured Mumford's widow later found employment, contested by Mumford supporters as a sham or because of guilt. An interesting set of events tied closely with the New Orleans Mint building, a building that produced many of the Liberty Seated coins we collect.



#### Sources:

Newspapers: Library of Congress <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Demonetized postage stamps: <https://en.wikipedia.org>  
William Bruce Mumford: <https://en.wikipedia.org>



# The End of an Art: Hand-Cut Die Counterfeits

By Winston Zack

The Liberty Seated-style coinage era saw the rise and fall of a counterfeiting art – hand cut die counterfeits. Contemporary counterfeit Liberty Seated-style coinage is comparatively more diverse compared to its preceding Bust-style coinage. The bulk of the counterfeit U.S. coins during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were bust half dollars but the second half of the century saw a much more diverse distribution of denominations being counterfeited. Two important, but certainly not all inclusive, questions arise from this: 1) Does this say anything about the U.S. coins most commonly seen in circulation? 2) Is this related to societal factors such as U.S. policies, laws, acts of congress, or inventions? The answer to the above two questions is almost certainly, yes.

In total, the Liberty Seated-era Mints were producing comparatively more coins per denomination than earlier decades. This was in part related to the large precious metal ore deposits discovered in the west – gold in California and Colorado and silver in Nevada and Colorado. Whereas the Bust-style coinage was focused primarily at the Philadelphia Mint (some might argue the 1838 and 1839 half dollars, quarter eagles, and half eagles minted at the New Orleans, Charlotte and/or Dahlonega mints fall under the Bust-style coinage), the Liberty Seated-era coinage eventually spread out to six Mints, and from coast-to-coast allowing for greater distribution.

Liberty Seated-era coinage gradually saw fewer foreign coins in circulation thanks in part to the Coinage Act of 1857. Foreign coins in circulation, such as Mexican and European denominations, for transactions were no longer necessary due to the U.S. being able to consistently Mint enough of its own coinage and denominations to sustain commerce. This also had an effect on counterfeiters. Now more than ever, counterfeiters had to focus their efforts solely on U.S. denominations than counterfeiting foreign coins because U.S. coins were the only coins legally allowed to circulate in the United States.

In 1865, the Secret Service was created with a mission to suppress counterfeiting. The efforts of the Service were immediate with numerous counterfeiters arrested in the first years. A tactic often used by the Service was to capture a couple counterfeiters and cut them a deal on a lighter sentence if they provided the whereabouts of additional counterfeiters. This brought about an exponential increase in convicted counterfeiters and quickly thwarted much of the counterfeiting in America. But, counterfeiting was still far from dead, especially for the coinage.

The Civil War had a definite and dramatic effect on counterfeiting coins in America. Although so-far unverified, it is likely that many counterfeiters at this time were serving in the Civil War armies and did not have the time or resources to counterfeit coins. In addition, most Mints produced fewer silver coins from about 1862 to 1870 and silver coins were hoarded and generally not in circulation due to fear of economic uncertainty. This may explain why so few counterfeit silver coins are dated to this period, especially hand-cut die counterfeits (an article to be published at a later date will show that based upon analysis of newspaper accounts from 1840-1890, most counterfeiters dated their counterfeit coins within 1-5 years of that present date). Most of the known counterfeits dated between 1862 and 1870 include counterfeit dimes and half dollars with San Francisco and Carson City mintmarks, locations generally unaffected by the Civil War, Reconstruction, and coinage hoarding.

After the Reconstruction Era (circa 1873), especially east of the Mississippi River, counterfeiting coins using hand-cut dies began a short revival, but not at the pace seen before the Civil War. From surviving specimens, the majority of the hand-cut die silver denomination counterfeits were dimes. The majority of the currently reported counterfeit half-dimes, quarters, half dollars, or dollars are casts or transfer dies. If the surviving specimens are a reflection of contemporary

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counterfeiting in the 1870's and 1880's, then it seems the art of counterfeiting using hand-cut dies was on the decline. The latest reported date on Liberty Seated half-dimes is from 1874, quarters is 1891, half dollars is 1878, and dollars (before Morgan's) is 1875 (see reference LSCC 2015). Hand-cut die nickel three cent and five cent counterfeits, as well as gold denominations, also appear to have stopped being made by the mid-1870s.

Counterfeiting using hand-cut dies continued, if only briefly, during the Barber-era. It may have been too costly and labor intensive to counterfeit this way anymore. Or maybe electric lightbulbs, invented at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, may have been responsible for ending this counterfeiting method for it made inspecting coinage, and potentially counterfeits, easier to detect. Therefore, a crudely fashioned hand-cut counterfeit had no place left in society. These pieces were merely artistic trinkets of a bygone era!



**Figure 1.** 1878 C-101 Half Dollar. At least four known.  
(The example shown has a so-far unique double-struck reverse.)

#### References:

LSCC 2015. [http://www.lsccweb.org/Contemporary\\_Counterfeits.htm](http://www.lsccweb.org/Contemporary_Counterfeits.htm)

#### Special Note:

I am currently working on an all-out research project collecting data (metric, non-metric, and metallurgical data) on ALL KNOWN (and surviving) contemporary counterfeits from U.S. coin series dated 1793-1891 (all denominations). If you are able and willing to contribute to this extensive research project, I encourage you to please contact me at: [stoneman101@gmail.com](mailto:stoneman101@gmail.com) for more details. I have numerous references available if needed.



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prisingly, two of the most accessed issues are *Gobrecht Journals* #94 and #97, which contain Randy Wiley's study of the 1861-O half dollar. Issue #94 covers the die marriages of 1861-O half dollars (15 varieties in all with six obverse dies and seven reverses) while Issue #97 covers the coining authority and rarity of each die marriage. Randy's descriptions are incredibly detailed and one gets the feeling that Randy might have known more about the dies than the engraver himself! The coincident distribution of a large group of 1861-O shipwreck pieces from the SS Republic catapulted the 1861-O half dollar in the marketplace, with the pieces issued under Confederate authority being especially prized. These two articles claimed the largest number of reprint requests during my tenure as LSCC Secretary-Treasurer, not surprising given

the crossover appeal of the coin to collectors not necessarily in the Liberty Seated coinage mainstream – indeed, the “Confederate” half dollar now has its own Guide Book listing. The Guide Book description of this coin is somewhat misleading, as not all of the Confederate-issued pieces have the characteristic die crack at the nose – all the more reason to reference Randy's original work.

Our next large gathering will be at the Baltimore show on November 6 at 9AM, all are welcome to attend, and a lively agenda is planned.

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